DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

October 30, 2017

Dear Chair Dunn,

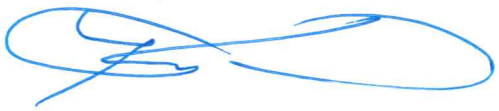
With a very heavy heart, I am writing to announce my resignation from Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI) and the Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority (DDA). My resignation will be effective once accepted by the DGRI and DDA Boards. I have accepted the position of President & CEO with the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, the organization where my career began in my hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. In this role, I can continue my passion for city building while being closer to lifelong friends and family.

This was not an easy decision to make, as the past five-plus years have been incredibly rewarding to me professionally. In reflecting over my tenure here in Grand Rapids, a few highlights stand out among the organization's accomplishments. Those include: managing the organizational merger and building DGRI, developing the DGRI citizen engagement structure that has incorporated the voices and ideas of hundreds into our decision making processes, deploying the Downtown Ambassador teams, reanimating the iconic Blue Bridge, leading the development of the GR Forward Master Plan, winning two Pinnacle Awards from the International Downtown Association, working to reengage Kent County into the DDA TIF district, facilitating the development of Arena Place, the first Class-A office tower in Downtown in decades, launching Movies in the Park, finalizing the Studio C! movie theater deal, and developing a diverse set of objective metrics for use in evaluating the performance of the organization and its leadership.

Even more than the projects, I've cherished the opportunity to lead a group of talented men and women and helping them make connections between their daily tasks and our larger mission to help Downtown Grand Rapids become a best-in-class city. Our team's passion and commitment to this place – Downtown Grand Rapids – is infectious and provided a daily source of inspiration. Moreover, I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to serve at the pleasure of the Boards of DGRI. The organization is lucky to have so many dedicated and sincere volunteer Board leaders among its ranks.

In closing, please know that Downtown Grand Rapids and DGRI will always be in my heart. To ensure that the transition runs as smoothly as possible, I am happy to aid the Board's interim designee and other members of the organization in any ways needed. I understand that the terms of my resignation will be governed by my employment agreement. Further, I understand that you will ask the respective boards to authorize you and DDA Chair Brian Harris to discuss with me and to approve any additional mutually agreeable terms regarding my resignation.

Sincerely,



Kristopher Larson, AICP
President & CEO